

## ABSTRACT

A new technique is disclosed, in which no freezing of image occurs even when time information becomes

5 discontinuous as in the case of a jointed image-taking, and by which the image signal can be displayed without trouble before and after the jointed image-taking.

According to this technique, an image encoding unit 1041 encodes an image signal by in-frame encoding and by

10 inter-frame prediction encoding and generates an image encoding data. A time information (PCR) generating unit 10461 generates time information multiplexed in a transport stream. An identification information (jointed image-taking information) generating unit 10462

15 generates identification information to indicate that continuity of time information is interrupted when continuity of the time information multiplexed on the transport stream has been interrupted. A multiplexing unit 1047 multiplexes the image encoding data with the

20 time information and the identification information and outputs it as a transport stream.